

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 as with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/401,636, filed September 22, 1999, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/106,652, filed November 2, 1998.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 is a diagram comparing the amino acid sequences of the CH2-CH3-CH4 domains of human (SEQ ID NO:1), rat (SEQ ID NO:2), and opossum IgE (SEQ ID NO:3), in the upper, middle, and lower rows, respectively. The opossum sequence also contains an N-terminal signal sequence followed by six histidine residues.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 2A-B contain diagrams comparing the amino acid sequences of various polypeptides containing the following components: opossum CH2Crat CH3Copossum CH4 (ORO) (SEQ ID NO:4); opossum CH2Crat N-term CH3Copossum C-term CH3Copossum CH4 (ORO-trunc) (SEQ ID NO:5); opossum CH2Cmouse CH3Copossum CH4 (OMO) (SEQ ID NO:6); opossum CH2CCH3CCH4 (OOO) (SEQ ID NO:3); platypus CH2CCH3CCH4 (PPP) (SEQ ID NO:7); opossum CH2Chuman CH3Copossum CH4 (OHO) (SEQ ID NO:8); opossum CH2Cpig CH3Copossum CH4 (OPO) (SEQ ID NO:9); and opossum CH2Cdog CH3Copossum CH4 (ODO) (SEQ ID NO:10). The arrows indicate domain borders.